

# Saint Mary's Newsletter: October

Vicar: David Smithson 027 4213200 Fridays

07 8492761 Afterhours

Peoples Warden: Sally-Ann Riddell 07 8243850

Vicars Warden: Roger Jennings 07 8243712



## SERVICES FOR October

### Sunday 4<sup>th</sup>:

10am St Francis Day - Pet Blessing

Refreshments - Stephanie Landon

### Sunday 11<sup>th</sup>:

**NO SERVICE** - Synod, and vicar away

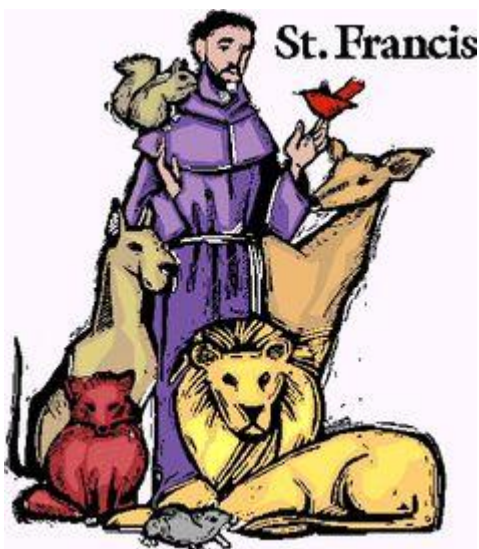
### Sunday 18<sup>th</sup>:

10am Praise Service

Refreshments - Katy Cockerton

### Sunday 25<sup>th</sup>:

**NO SERVICE** -Labour Weekend



### **Hall Fund/Golf Tournament:**

\$2,700.00 was raised! Praise God, and many thanks to Richard & Sally-Ann and all the volunteers ☺

### **Pet Blessing Service: Sun 4<sup>th</sup>**

**October:** Bring along your pet dog, cat, bird, Calf or lamb!

**Operation Safe Haven:** (Barnabas Fund) Help persecuted Christians find refuge after fleeing ISIS and other persecutors. Parish families please donate \$15-20 (or more!) in the container on the Welcome Table by the church entrance. In November Barnabas Fund are coming to speak to us on this very important issue.

### **Children's Church/Junior Youth:**

This month - No Children's church/Junior Youth on 4<sup>th</sup> Oct due to the Pet Blessing service, and it resumes 18<sup>th</sup> Oct.

### **Youth Group (Year 9+):** Combined

churches youth Meet Fridays:  
2<sup>nd</sup> , 9<sup>th</sup> , 16<sup>th</sup> , 23<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> Oct 7pm  
at Oaks Church Gordonton.



## Beauty

When we enjoy beauty are we conscious of participating in an action rooted in the divine? Not only do we engage in a divine action when observing beauty but whether conscious of it or not we are also invited to experience communion with the Transcendent God who at that very moment is also delighting in that beauty.

Our hope is that we can begin to move into a more conscious awareness of God's presence with us in a particular way while we observe beauty in its many expressions, whether it be watching a sunset, or listening to the sound of birds chirping melodiously or gazing upon a work of art by Michelangelo or listening to one of Beethoven's symphonies. The list goes on. In all of these let us be conscious and confident that our delight is coupled intimately with the delight of our loving Triune God such that during or after each encounter with beauty the phrase, 'And God saw that it was good' could be broadened to say, 'And we saw, God and us together, that it was good.' Observing beauty is like doing the tango, we miss out when we try it by ourselves. Observing beauty always offers us an opportunity for intimacy with God.

Finally, reflect upon beauty that is at the heart of the life of the Trinity. We all know what it's like to get caught up in the beauty of a sunset, and how what seemed like a minute turns out to be thirty minutes later. Beauty has the power to make time stand still and within God each member of the Trinity is caught up in the beauty of each other thereby giving birth to eternity. By virtue of our baptism we are being called to participate in this eternal gallery of beauty.

Whenever we approach the Eucharist, let's pledge ourselves to become more conscious of God's intimate presence waiting to delight with us in the beauty that brings delight to our hearts. As well let us give thanks to Christ who handed himself over for us so as to present us to the Father without spot, wrinkle or blemish.



## **This Month in Christian History:**

*28 Oct 1871:* In Tanzania, Henry Morton Stanley locates "missing" British missionary and explorer Dr David Livingstone, and his first words to him were: "Dr Livingstone, I presume?"



Dr D Livingstone

## **Parish Bank Account:**

**02 0410 0103053 00** Thanks for your weekly A/P contributions to keep our Parish running!

## **A Scripture for you:**

**Ephesians 3:14-19**

"For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth derives its name. I pray that out of his glorious riches he may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge—that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God."